

From
Somers Citizens Advisory Committee on the Plant Cleanup
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD SF File Number
80.15

Re: Comments on court decree covering cleanup of Somers Tie Plant

Consent decree section XII - Financial assurance

If the proposed method of clean up are proven inadequate, then the length of time with related costs to develop and implement new alternative clean up method (s) could create acute financial duress on the dependent. This committee is concerned over the dependants long term financial stability. Will clean up goals be reduced if insolvency occurs?

Consent decree section XXII Additional work

This committee desires the right to be informed of any additional work required or agreed to by both parties. We also request the right to comment on and/or request modification to additional work, if it will impact the communities quality of life.

General comment on the Consent Decree to include Exhibits 1 & 2.

Comment number one - Site Investigation for contamination

The committee feels the investigation has been limited to finding the limit of contamination for creosote and zinc residues. Another treatment fluid was used, CHROMATED ZINC CHLORIDE, (exhibit 1 page 8 Site History and Enforcement Activities) but no trace of this fluid has been identified to date.

Within the past year this committee informed EPA that CHROMATED ZINC CHLORIDE residue was disposed of via an injection well, exact location unknown, but assumed to be in the vicinity of the retort building.

Both parties of the consent decree have agreed to look for this well during demolition of the retort building. We seek assurances that a sincere effort will be made to find this well and if it has contaminated the surrounding soil and ground water.

This committee has also informed B.N. of the existence of old retort operational records, stored in the attic of the retort building. We request these records be saved, reviewed and any information discovered be made available to us.

This committee senses the overall investigative effort lacked 100% commitment and express our concern that the clean up is lacking 100% commitment.

Another area of interest and concern are verbal commitments made by E.P.A. and the dependant over the aesthetic qualities of the site clean up to our group. These commitments include:

1. Set back from Somers roads of the land farm location of at least 100 feet.
2. The establishment of vegetative barriers on the outside boundary of the land farm.
3. Dust and odor control during the life of the land farm.
4. A portion of B.N. land to create a Community Park. Previous understanding called for B.N. to provide land and landscaping materials and community to provide labor to develop.

In closing, the Somers Citizens Advisory Committee on the Tie Plant Clean Up appreciates the opportunity to express our concerns on the Consent Decree governing clean up of the Somers Tie Plant.



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